

House Concurrent Resolution No. 22

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE STEVENS (46).

1182H.021

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

Relating to opioid and heroin awareness month.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

2 **WHEREAS**, opioids are drugs that act on the nervous system to conceal pain and
3 provide a tremendous benefit in certain situations; and

4 **WHEREAS**, over the past decade physicians have begun to write more opioid
5 prescriptions, for more days and higher doses, to the point that today prescription opioids are
6 more widely used than tobacco; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, opioids are one of the most addictive substances, such that 75 percent of
9 new heroin users were first addicted to a legally prescribed prescription opioid, and addiction
10 leads to drug-seeking of more powerful substances; and

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12 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Health and Senior Services has declared the opioid crisis
13 the number one public health issue Missouri faces, with almost 1000 deaths due to overdose per
14 year; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, the total economic cost of the opioid epidemic in Missouri was \$12.6
17 billion in 2016, or 4.2 percent of the state's total gross domestic product, fifteenth in the nation,
18 and 1.3 times the state's total economic activity generated by the agriculture, mining, and utilities
19 sectors combined; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, intravenous drug users account for over 10 percent of all cases of HIV
22 infection and higher rates of hepatitis C, and Missouri has over 10,000 people living with AIDS
23 and almost 8,000 hepatitis C cases; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, eleven Missouri counties are on the Center for Disease Control's list of
26 places most at risk for HIV contraction; and

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28 **WHEREAS**, the long-term damage to individuals, their children and families from
29 opioid addiction is highly detrimental to society:

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31 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
32 Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
33 concurring therein, hereby designate the month of September each year as "Opioid and Heroin
34 Awareness Month" in the state of Missouri; and

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36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his
37 approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

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